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1. In mid-July 1955, basic and supplementary ration books were supplied in the Riesa area. The basic rations were 1,380 grms of meat, 1,240 grms of sugar, and 915 grms of fat.

2. The following is a survey on the food situation of the so-called Freier Handel (Free Trade, carried out in HO shops). A 2-kg loaf of brown bread, which was doughy and could only be eaten when it was stale, cost 1 DM East. White bread and rolls were to be had, but their quality was worse than last year's. It was possible to buy cake at bakeries. Flour was not stocked in unlimited quantities, and its quality had deteriorated. Noodles and other flour products, except for semolina, peeled barley, and oats, could be bought anywhere in fairly good quality. Chinese rice was sold at a price of between 1.80 and 2.20 DM East per pound. Old potatoes were not to be had, but new Hungarian imported potatoes, which were watery, small and of reddish color, were to be had in small quantities every now and then.

3. Approximately 90% of the meat consumed in the GDR was pork. Only very occasionally, was fresh veal to be had. Beef was only sold in the form of imported frozen meat. Several sorts of sausage could be bought. Half a pound of Hungarian salami cost 4.90 DM East. German salami 4,15 DM East, and all other sausages approximately 3.00 DM East. Fresh salt water fish were a rarity. On one occasion some time ago, salt herring could be bought. Fresh water fish were sold only in autumn. Occasionally the HO shops sold herring in mayonnaise, rolled-up herring and other pickled fish, but only in very small quantities. The Freier Handel was sufficiently supplied with butter, the so-called Mischbutter (a mixture of butter and other fat), which had a strong yellow coloring and dissolved when a few days old. Sufficient margarine was to be had, but it could only be used for frying and baking.

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4. Sugar could only bought with ration books. There was a shortage of jam, but the quality was still good. Vegetables were sold according to the season, but there was never enough to supply the whole population satisfactorily. There was an abundance of tobacco goods; coffee and cocoa had not been sold for months, but Russian tea could always be bought.

5. The population was on the whole furious at the meagre and uncertain supply of food, but nobody dared to speak his mind freely.

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